

EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS, COLORADO, SLATE CREEK
ADDITION

JUNE 3, 1997.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 985]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 985) to provide for the expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness within Arapaho and White River National Forests, Colorado, to include the lands known as the Slate Creek Addition upon the acquisition of the lands by the United States, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SLATE CREEK ADDITION TO EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS, ARAPAHO AND WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FORESTS, COLORADO.

(a) SLATE CREEK ADDITION.—If the parcel of land described in subsection (b) is conveyed to the United States on or before December 31, 2000, the parcel shall be included in, and managed as part of, the Eagles Nest Wilderness designated by Public Law 94-352 (90 Stat. 870; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note). Upon conveyance of the parcel, the boundary of the Eagles Nest Wilderness is adjusted to include the parcel.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF ADDITION.—The parcel referred to in subsection (a) is generally depicted on a map entitled “Slate Creek Addition-Eagles Nest Wilderness”, dated February 1997, which shall be available for public inspection in the office of the Forest Supervisor of the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado. The parcel comprises approximately 160 acres in Summit County, Colorado, adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 985 is to provide for the expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness within Arapaho and White River National

Forests, Colorado, to include lands known as the Slate Creek Addition upon the acquisition of lands by the United States.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

This legislation provides that the 160-acre Slate Creek parcel in Summit County, Colorado, will be added to the Eagles Nest Wilderness and administered as part of the Wilderness Area if the land is acquired by the United States within the next four years. The 160-acre parcel is proposed for acquisition by the United States in a land exchange. However, the current owners of the tract are unwilling to convey the land unless it is added to the Eagles Nest Wilderness and permanently managed as wilderness. Currently, Eagles Nest Wilderness surrounds the Slate Creek parcel on three sides, but the parcel is outside the official wilderness boundary. Therefore, legislation is required to add this parcel to the boundaries of the legislation. The proposed addition is supported by the Summit County Board of County Commissioners, the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council, The Wilderness Land Trust and a number of environmental organizations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 985 was introduced on March 6, 1997, by Congressman Scott McInnis (R-CO). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health. On May 6, 1997, the Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 985, where the Administration testified that it supports H.R. 985 if amended to reduce administrative steps. The Administration suggested the bill be amended to legislate the boundary adjustment upon conveyance. On May 8, 1997, the Subcommittee met to mark up H.R. 985. An amendment to describe the parcel of land to be included in the boundary adjustment was offered by Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth, and adopted by voice vote. The bill was then ordered favorably reported to the Full Committee. On May 21, 1997, the Full Resources Committee met to consider H.R. 985. The bill was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote without further amendment.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section one provides that if the United States acquires the Slate Creek Parcel of land before December 31, 2000, the parcel shall be included in, and managed as part of, the Eagles Nest Wilderness. Moreover, if acquired, the Secretary of Agriculture shall adjust the boundaries of the Eagles Nest Wilderness to reflect the inclusion. Finally, subsection (b) describes the proposed addition of land.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With respect to the requirements of clause 2(1)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 and Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact H.R. 985.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

Clause 7(a) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 985. However, clause 7(d) of that Rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XI

1. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, H.R. 985 does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has received no report of oversight findings and recommendations from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on the subject of H.R. 985.

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 985 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, May 28, 1997.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 985, a bill to provide for the expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness within Arapaho and White River National Forests, Colorado, to include the lands known as the Slate Creek Addition upon the acquisition of the lands by the United States.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Victoria V. Heid.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL, *Director.*

Enclosure.

H.R. 985—A bill to provide for the expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness within Arapaho and White River National Forests, Colorado, to include the lands known as the Slate Creek Addition upon the acquisition of the lands by the United States

CBO estimates that enacting this bill would have no significant impact on the federal budget. H.R. 985 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. H.R. 985 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would impose no significant costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 985 would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to adjust the boundaries of the Eagles Nest Wilderness within the Arapaho and White River National Forests, Colorado, to include about 160 acres of land depicted on a map entitled “Slate Creek Addition-Eagles Nest Wilderness” if the United States acquires that land on or before December 31, 2000. The U.S. Forest Service is currently negotiating to acquire the privately held land, which is adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness. According to the Forest Service, the land has been appraised at a fair market value of approximately \$160,000. However, the owners want assurance that the land would be designated as wilderness, and legislation is required to change the boundaries of a wilderness area. Thus, enacting H.R. 985 would make it more likely that the Forest Service would purchase the land within the next few years. In any case, outlays for the purchase are subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate are Victoria V. Heid. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

H.R. 985 contains no unfunded mandates.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, H.R. 985 would make no changes in existing law.